REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11.

The Examiner is strongly urged to contact Applicants' Attorney, the undersigned, by telephone to discuss the outstanding issues of the present application prior to examination.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action the Examiner states that an "attachment sheet in the response that details Figs. 12 and 13 of Wada in order to distinguish between Wada and the present invention" was not attached to the June 22, 2007 Amendment. Attached herewith is a sheet which shows a comparison between claim 1 of the present invention and Wada. In the attached sheet, Fig. A corresponds Fig. 12 of Wada et al and Fig. B corresponds Fig. 13 of Wada et al, wherein a left side view illustrates a camera 11, that is an image signal transmission apparatus which the Examiner refers to, and a right side view illustrates a personal computer 19, or a controller 12 and monitor 13, that is an image signal reception apparatus which Examiner refers to.

Further, in the attached sheet of the present invention (Claim 1) shows the constituent elements of the image signal transmission apparatus and the image signal reception apparatus.

Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Wada (U.S. Patent No. 6,744,461); and claims 1-5 and 8-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Wada and Rhodes (U.S. Patent No. 5,745,166). As indicated above, claims 2 and 7 were canceled. Therefore, the above 35 USC §102(e)

and 35 USC §103(a) rejections of claims 2 and 7 is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 7 is respectfully requested.

The above noted rejections with respect to the remaining claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Wada or Rhodes whether taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Particularly, amendments were made to the claims to recite that the present invention is directed to an image signal reception apparatus coupled with said image signal transmission apparatus through a transmission path is disclosed on page 13, lines 22 to 27 in the specification, such as "FIG. 2 is a block diagram showing an embodiment of an image signal reception apparatus. An image signal transmitted from the image signal transmission apparatus 1 is inputted to an image signal input unit 22 of an image signal reception apparatus 21 shown in FIG. 2.

According to the present invention the image signal being all image signals including a image signal of the predetermined privacy-related image part and all image signals being transmitted to the image signal reception apparatus through a transmission path," is disclosed on page 19, lines 5 to 9 in the specification, such as "As described above, in the present invention, regardless of the existence or inexistence of the privacy-related image part P,

all the analog image signals are transmitted to the image signal reception apparatus 21, or with masking based on said position information;" is disclosed on page 15, lines 16 to 24 in the specification. The extractor 25 for image area to which the analog image signal from the separator 23 for position data of area is applied, outputs an image signal resulting from the extraction of the privacy-related image part P from the analog image signal based on the position information of the privacy-related image part P outputted from the controller 27.

The features of the present invention are that all image signals from an image pick-up unit are transmitted from an image signal transmission apparatus to an image signal reception apparatus through a transmission path, regardless of the existence or inexistence of the privacy-related image part P, even if the image signal relating to the privacy-related image part P, and a position information relating to the privacy-related image part P, is transmitted from the image signal transmission apparatus to an image signal reception apparatus by superimposing the position information into a vertical blanking period of the image signal. As a result, at the image signal reception apparatus side, an image itself relating to the privacy-related image part P is displayed (without masking) on the monitor, or the image relating to the privacy-related image part P is not displayed (with masking) on the monitor.

That is, according to the present invention an operator can select whether to display the image itself within the privacy-related image part P on the monitor (without masking) or not display the privacy-related image part P on the monitor (with masking).

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record whether said references are taken individually or in combination with each other. Particularly, the above described features of the as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Wada or Rhodes whether said references are taken individually or in combination with each other as suggested by the Examiner.

Wada discloses a compound camera 11 and a personal computer 19. As per Wada, when a mask of a privacy zone is set, the personal computer 19 sends the mask data to the compound camera 11 by using a mouse. Next, after the mask has been set the mask in an image picked-up by the compound camera 11, the compound camera 11 transmits the image picked-up by the compound camera 11, which has been already masked in the part of the privacy zone, to be displayed on the screen of the personal computer 19. As a result, as per Wada, the mask cannot be removed from the image transmitted to the personal computer 19.

With regard to claim 6, Examiner states that Wada discloses "a position data adding unit for superimposing said position information obtained from said position input unit into said image signal obtained from said image pick-up unit" in Fig.11, element 45 and col. 7, lines 24-30 and col. 10, lines 25-34 and col. 2, lines 38-48.

However, contrary to the allegations by the Examiner, Fig.11, element 45 and col. 7, lines 24-30 of Wada discloses the DSP 45 which is only for encoding an image, and the encoded image data is once written in the image memory 46 and then read out from the image memory 46 to be output to the

monitor. Further, col. 10, lines 25-34 of Wada discloses "a step 12 is implemented to convert the mask zone, transformed into the screen coordinates, into data corresponding to the pixels of the CCD 45, with the converted data being outputted to the DSP 45. Then, the operational flow enters display processing. This mask zone is display in color such as black on the screen, and is displayed together with a mask number, symbols (private house mark, toilet room mark or the like) and other marks according to the circumstances." That is, this means that Wada discloses the display processing to mask in color such as black on the screen. In more details, in DSP 45 of Fig. 11 of Wada, the mask zone is already masked in the DSP 45 based on the mask data from the controller 12. Therefore, an image data covered by the mask is transmitted to the monitor and the masked image is displayed on a monitor 12. As a result, in Wada, an operator can not see the image relating to the mask zone as in the present invention.

In the present invention, a position data adding unit superimposes position information of a predetermined privacy-related image part into a vertical blanking period of the image signal from said image pick-up unit. Therefore, the image signal and the position information are separately superimposed, that is, the image signal relating to the privacy-related image part P is not covered by the mask as in Wada.

In the technique of Wada, the mask zone is already masked in the DSP 45 based on the mask data from the controller 12 and the operator cannot retrieve the image signal within the mask zone as is possible in the present invention. The Examiner states that Wada further discloses an image signal output unit for outputting said image signal to which said position information

is added (Fig. 11, element 46 and col. 8, lines 31-41, and col. 2, lines 59-67). However, in Wada, the mask data is made in a personal computer 19 (corresponding to an image signal reception apparatus of the present invention) and is transmitted to a compound camera 11 (corresponding to an image signal transmission apparatus of the present invention), as described in col. 8, lines 8 to 61, "The mask setting in Wada is made through the use of the personal computer 19. In col. 2, lines 59-67, Wada discloses the monitor camera (that is the compound camera 11) holds the mask data from the control means (that is the personal computer 19) entirely different form the present invention.

In the present invention, a first image signal output unit is to output all image signals including an image signal of predetermined privacy-related image part and position information relating to a predetermined privacy-related image part. That is, the all image data includes an image data of predetermined privacy-related image part and position information and an image data of the image of object pick-up by the camera are transmitted to an image signal reception apparatus through a transmission path. These features are not taught or suggested by Wada.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Wada discloses "said position information obtained from said position input unit is superimposed on a vertical blanking period of said image signal obtained from said image pick-up unit" in col. 10, lines 5-9 and 25-34. However, Wada does not disclose to superimposed said position information into a vertical blanking period of said image signal, but to convert in the camera control section 21 the mask data transmitted from the personal computer 19 into the screen coordinates. In

more detail, in the technique of Wada, the image signal is transmitted from the compound camera 11 to the personal computer 19, and the mask data is transmitted from the personal computer 19 to the compound camera 11. As a result, in Wada there is no need to superimpose the mask data into the image signal as in the present invention.

Wada does not disclose a position data adding unit and a first image signal output unit as described in the amended claim 6. In the Office Action the Examiner alleges that Wada discloses an image signal input unit for applying said image signal with said position information from said image signal transmission apparatus in col. 8, lines 10-50.
However, Wada discloses only in col. 8, lines 10-50 that a mask setting command is sent from the personal computer 19 to the compound camera 11.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Wada discloses in col. 8, lines 42-61 "a position information detector for detecting said position information from said image signal". However, Examiner apparently misunderstands "a position information detector" of the present invention. That is, col. 8, lines 42-61 of Wada discloses that a mask setting command is sent from the personal computer 19 to the compound camera 11, such as in the above descriptions, and the operator designates the privacy zone by the mouse of the personal computer 19 (corresponding to an image signal reception apparatus of the amended claim 1) and the coordinate data of the mask is transmitted to the compound camera 11 (corresponding to an image signal transmission apparatus of the amended claim 1) and is stored in the memory 47. In Wada, the compound camera 11 stores the mask data in the

memory 47 and when needed, the mask data is detected in the compound camera 11 side. Additionally, in Wada, the pan coordinates and the tilt coordinates representative of that mask zone, together with the number thereof, are fed from the personal computer 19 to the compound camera system and put in the memory 47. In the display, a maximum of four mask zones can be set on the screen.

In the present invention, it is necessary that "a position information detector" is placed in an image signal reception apparatus. According to the present invention, an image signal transmission apparatus transmits all image signals including the image signal relating to the predetermined privacy-related image part and the position information relating to the predetermined privacy-related image part. Therefore, in an image signal reception apparatus side, position information must be detected in order to mask an image signal relating to the predetermined privacy-related image part in the image signal reception apparatus side. The above features of amended claim 1 of the present invention are not taught or suggested by Wada.

In the Office Action the Examiner alleges that Wada discloses allowing for a user with administrative privileges to opt in or out of the masking process in col. 3 lines 4-12, col. 10, lines 34-39 and col. 11, lines 21-24. However, Examiner apparently misunderstands this feature of the present invention. That is, although the descriptions of col. 3 lines 4-12 and col. 11, lines 21-24 of Wada discloses the setting or cancellation of the mask data, the operation of this embodiment of Wada is performed by the mask setting command from the personal computer 19. Accordingly, the output of the compound camera 11 is already selected one of the image signals covered by the mask or not

covered by the mask before the transmission of the image signal from the compound camera 11. The description of col. 10 lines34-39 discloses only to control the position of mask zone.

On the other hand, one of the features of the of the present invention is that the image signal transmission apparatus outputs all image signals including a image signal relating to the predetermined privacy-related image part in the image signal and a position information relating to the predetermined privacy-related image part and an image signal of an object and that the all image signals with masking or without masking can be selected in the image signal reception apparatus side after the all image signals has been transmitted. The above described features of the amended claim 1 of the present invention is not taught or suggested by Wada.

Thus, as is quite clear from the above, the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Wada. Therefore, Wada does not anticipate nor render obvious the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §102(e) rejection of claims 6 and 7 as being anticipated by Wada is respectfully requested.

The above described deficiencies of Wada are not supplied by any of the other references of record. Particularly, the above described deficiencies of Wada are not supplied by Rhodes.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Rhodes discloses a system for allowing text inserted in a video surveillance image to be turned on or off according to a user' s preference. The text sometimes masks important

desirable information in the image and it is therefore sometimes necessary to remove it.

The Examiner further alleges that Rhodes discloses a recording said image signal without masking or with masking in col. 8, lines 32-50. Rhodes discloses in the video security system, such as a text insertion system, however, the technique of Rhodes discloses a insertion of a text other than in the part of video signal such as the descriptions of col. 3, lines 51-54 and col. 8, lines 25-29 such as described in "The controller 40 controls the insertion of the text into the video signal at a location which is not ordinary part of the visible part of the video screen once displayed and also to insert or remove a text from the visible part of the video signal.

In the present invention, an image signal itself relating to the predetermined privacy-related image part is masked. Therefore, it is quite different between the insertion of a text of Rhodes and a masking of an image signal of the amended claim1 of the present invention.

The Examiner also alleges that Rhodes discloses an image signal output unit for outputting said image signal without masking or with masking from said recorder in col. 8, lines 32-50 and a controller for selectively output said image signal output unit said predetermined privacy-related image part based on said position information from said position information detector in col. 8, lines 32-50.

However, Rhodes discloses only to insert a text other than in the part of a video signal and to remove a text. Therefore, the features of the amended claim 1 are quiet different from the technique of Rhodes, such as described in the above explanation.

Thus, Rhodes fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. In other words, Rhodes suffers from the same deficiencies relative to the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims as Wada.

Therefore, combining Wada with Rhodes in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims and as such the combination does not render obvious the claimed invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3-5 and 8-11 as being unpatentable over Wada in view of Rhodes is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the reference utilized in the rejection of claims 1-11.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (520.43033X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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